

Selectmen's Meeting

Monday, March 26, 2018

Town Office Building

Attending: D. Pierce, S. Bergeron, T. Fydenkevez,

Other's Present: E. Crowe, K. McFarland, P. Gagarin, L. Starr, K. Hand, G. Bridwell, B. Berry

Meeting called to order at 6:35PM.

#### FY19 BUDGET DISCUSSION

Mr. Crowe has no official recommendation for the override and understands more discussion to follow. Finance Committee voted on the Reserve Fund Transfer. Questions: Why request an override if Free Cash may be available? Why would the town switch to MIIA health insurance? The increased budget drivers are: Technology line which is for an increase in Technology support to maintain the town has proper IT services; Municipal Energy line change due to shift in buildings covered under Schedule Z vs. building budget line; SCEMS previously was offset with retained earnings which have changed as the program has moved forward; Schools increased by \$248,940; Health Insurance increase from 55% to 60% for town contribution.

School Committee budget meeting held last week approved the budget as presented. The school notes there is no fluff in the budget and the Sunderland School Committee voted unanimously to accept as presented. Mr. Gagarin expressed to the School Committee to consider some reduction to help the town.

After some discussion regarding budgeting options, Mr. Bergeron recommended consideration of a \$200,000 override as well as applying Free Cash to cover the \$380,000 budget increase. Mr. Bergeron Motion to notify the Town Clerk of a request to increase the property tax rate above the 2 ½% mark for discussion, Second, Mr. Fydenkevez Second, Vote 3-0. Notification must be submitted by April 2<sup>nd</sup> to the Town Clerk. The \$200,000 override of .57¢ on the tax rate equals \$114 increase on a \$200,000 property.

From a personnel standpoint, it was noted that there is still a gap in employee salaries and the Personnel Committee recommended a 3% COLA. Consultant will do a study regarding salaries. Will the override give us enough money to cover those costs for next year? The override being requested is for the budget that is being presented as we do not know anticipated costs for future personnel salary costs. Current tax rate if \$15.00, a \$300,000 override would be an .86¢ increase. It should also be noted some debt will be paid in 2021 and 2022 for principal and interest debt for the Library and Public Safety Complex building projects.

#### WARRANT ARTICLES

Warrant is closed and by Motion to include the following articles:

- Article 1: Motion Mr. Fydenkevez, Second Mr. Bergeron, Vote 3-0.
- Article 2: Motion Mr. Fydenkevez, Second Mr. Bergeron, Vote 3-0.
- Article 3: Motion Mr. Bergeron, Second Mr. Fydenkevez, Vote 3-0.
- Article 4: Motion Mr. Bergeron, Second Mr. Fydenkevez, Vote 3-0.
- Article 5: Motion Mr. Bergeron, Second Mr. Fydenkevez, Vote 3-0.
- Article 6: Motion Mr. Bergeron, Second Mr. Fydenkevez, Vote 3-0.
- Article 7: Motion Mr. Fydenkevez, Second Mr. Bergeron, Vote 3-0.
- Article 8: Change appropriation to \$12,000. Motion Mr. Bergeron, Second, Mr. Fydenkevez, Vote 3-0.
- Article 9: Motion Mr. Bergeron, Second Mr. Fydenkevez, Vote 3-0.
- Article 10: Motion Mr. Bergeron, Second Mr. Fydenkevez, Vote 3-0.
- Article 11: Motion Mr. Fydenkevez, Second Mr. Bergeron, Vote 3-0.

- Article 12: Motion Mr. Bergeron, Second Mr. Fydenkevez, Vote 3-0.
- Article 13: Recommend \$5,000 appropriation, Motion Mr. Fydenkevez, Second Mr. Bergeron, Vote 3-0.
- Article 14: Motion Mr. Fydenkevez, Second Mr. Bergeron, Vote 3-0.
- Article 15: Motion Mr. Fydenkevez, Second Mr. Bergeron, Vote 3-0 and to add for FY19.
- Article 16: Motion Mr. Bergeron, Second Mr. Fydenkevez, Vote 3-0.
- Article 17: Motion Mr. Fydenkevez, Second Mr. Bergeron, Vote 3-0.
- Article 18: Motion Mr. Bergeron, Second Mr. Fydenkevez, Vote 3-0.
- Article 19: Motion Mr. Bergeron, Second Mr. Fydenkevez, Vote 3-0.
- Articles 20-25 Motion Mr. Fydenkevez, Second Mr. Bergeron, Vote 3-0.

Motion Mr. Bergeron to appoint Dan Perusse as Public Weigher, Second Mr. Fydenkevez, Vote 3-0.

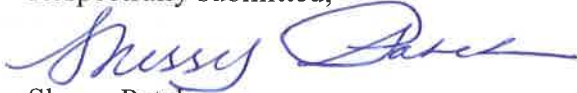
**Motion Mr. Fydenkevez to include a debt exclusion question on the ballot for the Fire Truck Replacement for \$536,868, Second Mr. Bergeron, Vote 3-0.**

#### SELECTMEN UPDATES

- Mr. Bergeron was at GCC regarding rural education with other legislature members – meeting was really well attended.
- Mr. Fydenkevez announced that Massachusetts continues to be #1 in most education scores in the country.

Motion Mr. Fydenkevez to adjourn, Second Mr. Bergeron for discussion who then read a quote, Mr. Pierce adjourned at 8:50PM with a Vote 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,



Sherry Patch  
Town Administrator